Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a polysuccinimide (co)polymer derivative, comprising reacting a polysuccinimide (co)polymer in a fluidized state with a Lewis base by heating in the presence of a solvent having a low boiling point and high relative permittivity.

2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said Lewis base is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a straight or branched hydrocarbons of 1 to 18 carbon atoms having at least one group selected from the group consisting of an amino (-NH_2-) group, an imino (-NH-) group, a mercapto (-SH) group and a hydroxyl (-OH) group and ammonia.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said solvent has a boiling point in the range of 50° to 150 °C and has a relative permittivity of not less than 20.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 3, wherein said solvent is water.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the solvent having a low boiling point and high relative permittivity to the polysuccinimide (co)polymer is in the range of 0.1 to 10.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said Lewis base is sequentially to the polysuccinimide (co)polymer which has been fluidized in the presence of a solvent having a low boiling point and high relative permittivity.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said reaction by heating is carried out in the presence of an acid catalyst.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7, wherein said acid catalyst is at least one member selected among phosphorous acid, boric acid and [[p-oluenesulfonic]] p-toluenesulfonic acid.

9. (Previously Presented) A polysuccinimide (co)polymer derivative produced by the process set forth in claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein said solvent has a relative permittivity of not less than 25.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said solvent comprises at lease one member selected from the group consisting of water, formic acid, methanol and ethanol.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein said solvent comprises water or formic acid.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said Lewis base is at least one member selected from the group consisting of primary amines, secondary amines, diamines, alcohols, aminoalcohols, thiols, aminothiols and ammonia.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said Lewis base is at least one member selected from the group consisting of primary amines, diamines, and aminothiols.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said polysuccinimide (co)polymer is polysuccinimide.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said polysuccinimide (co)polymer is prepared using aspartic acid, (poly)aspartate ammonium, ammonium maleate, or maleic amide as a starting material.

17. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the fluidized state is homogeneous and viscous.